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NATION DATELINES

Ex-Reagan aides face-off in Virginia

RICHMOND, VA. Two Reagan administration veterans, one linked to the budget deficit and the other to the Iran-contra scandal, face off for the Republican U.S. Senate nomination at a massive convention that opens Friday.

As many as 14,800 delegates will decide by secret ballot Saturday whether James Miller III or Oliver North should represent the party in the fight for Democrat Charles Robb's seat.

Marines make woman a two-star general

WASHINGTON Marine Maj. Gen. Carol Mutter pinned on her second star on Thursday and became the highest-ranking woman on active duty in the U.S. military, the Marine Corps announced.

Mutter, 48, will assume command Friday of the Marine Corps Systems Command at nearby Quantico, Va. The command oversees equipment research and development for the Marine Corps.

FBI files on JFK death to be released soon

WASHINGTON The FBI sent an additional 114,690 pages of investigative files on the assassination of President John Kennedy to the National Archives on Thursday for public release.

The transfer included 66,194 pages of files from the FBI's Dallas and New Orleans offices on the investigation of Kennedy's death, 48,226 remaining pages from the FBI field offices on the investigation of assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and 270 pages from the Dallas office on Oswald's wife, Marina Oswald, the FBI said.

Thousands expected for Disney 'Gay Day'

ORLANDO, FLA. Thousands of gay and lesbian visitors are expected to visit Walt Disney World on Saturday to kick off Gay Pride month, an event that has sparked local protest.

In its fourth year, the annual "Gay Day at Disney" has grown from an event of a few hundred people to one expected to attract 12,000 to 20,000 people from around the world, said Charlie Irwin, president of the Gay Alliance, an Orlando, Fla.-based group of gay and lesbian theme park workers.

Although Disney does not officially sponsor the event, it cannot disallow it, said Disney spokeswoman Jane Adams. Disney plans to post signs at its entrances indicating the event is not officially sanctioned.

Gene-altered soybean wins U.S. approval

WASHINGTON A soybean that can stand a dousing with a popular weed-killer is the newest genetically engineered product to be deemed safe by the Agriculture Department.

The department said the glyphosate-tolerant soybean poses no threat to other plants. It will be at least 1½ years before Monsanto Co. of St. Louis will have beans for farmers to plant.

Glyphosate, another Monsanto product sold commercially as Roundup, is the most widely used weed-killer in the world.

Compiled from Examiner wire reports